saleable steel during the current financial year;

(b) the achievement made so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase its production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Expected production of finished steel in 1991-92 is 14.5 million tonnes;

(b) Production of finished steel upto October, 1991 was 7.96 million tonnes;

(c) Various steps such as modernisation and maintenance of steel plants, monitoring supplies of inputs, improved captive power generation, adoption of better technological and manpower discipline and establishment of new plants in the private sector to augment production are taken to increase production of steel.

Steel sector has since been de-licensed for encouraging private entrepreneurs to enter into the production of steel.

Oil India Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum Ltd

3441. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are lying vacant in Indian Oil Corporation, Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Oil India Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to fill up the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Committee to go into Problems of Farmers

3442. SHRI B. DEVARAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Committee to go into the problems of farmers in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to include experts in the field of agriculture and the Members of Parliament in the committee; and

(c) the time frame proposed for the setting up of such a Committee and submission of its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Production of Aluminium

3443. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of aluminium has decreased since 1984-85; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir. On the contrary

production of aluminium has consistently increased over the last few years.

(b) Does not arise.

Cashewnut Cultivation

3444. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up concrete plans to provide incentives to the concerned States for a rapid increase in the area under Cashewnut cultivation and also for increased productivity of this crop; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). For increasing the area and productivity of cashewnut, the potential States are assisted under Central Sector Integrated Programme for Development of Cashew with an outlay of Rs. 1.00 crores during 1991-92. Under the scheme for area expansion with clonal planting material, cashew farmers are provided subsidy of Rs. 3750/- per ha. in five annual instalments. Further, for popularising clonal cultivation among farmers demonstration plots of 0.4 ha. size are laid out and maintained by providing assistance of Rs. 2200/- per plot. A subsidy of Rs. 3000/- per ha. for farmers and Rs. 1500/- per ha. for Public Sector Cashew Corporations is provided for adoption of plant protection measures. Assistance is also provided to State Governments to establish Centres for production and supply of clonal planting material to cashew growers.

Royalty Cess from Mine owners in Goa

3445. SHRI HARISH PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state the amount of Royalty paid and Cess collected from the mine owners in Goa during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Supply of Seeds by National Seeds Corporation

3446. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) the quantity of seeds demanded by each State from the National Seeds Corporation for the current Rabi season, crop-wise; and

(b) the quantity of seed supplied to each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). A Statement is attached.